prices; strengthening the export incentive schemes like CCS, Duty drawback, IPRS and concessionary interest rates; Supportive exchange rate and demand management policies; improvement in infrastructural facilities; simplification of procedures; etc.

(b) In 1990-91 the export of agricultural commodities including plantations and marine products is estimated to contribute about 15.88 per sent of overall export target.

(c) The steps being taken to increase the agricultural exports include new rationalised rates introduced for REP, import of capital goods at concessional rate of 20 per cent custom duty, Export Packaging Credit, easing of air cargo, sea and rail transport problems, participation in international fairs/expositions, grant of CCS, etc.

CRPF Assistance sought for the security of income-tax department officials

1053. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistance of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is being sought for the security of Income-Tax Department officials during raids;

(b) whether Government are aware of recent incidents of assault on raiding tax officials; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A serious incident of violence took place during the course of search operations at Muzaffarnagar and Bijnore (U.P.) in September, 1989, where the Income-tax officials participating in search operations were violently attached resulting in serious injuries to some of them. Besides, a large number of officials were also manhandled. Other incidents of violence also took palace at Bombay, Itawa and Bharatpur during 1989. During 1990 one incident of assault on Income-tax officials took place at Bairagad near Bhopal.

RBI Instructions for working capital assistance to small sector

1054. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently issued instructions to all banks to deal with the proposal for working capital assistance to the small scale sector within a time frame;

(b) if so, what are the details of the instructions issued by RBI in this regard: and

(c) to what extent the small scale units in the country would be benefited thereby?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) RBI has reported that guidelines have been issued to commercial banks laying down, *Inter-alia*, that direct loan applications under the priority sector including SSI Sector upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks. These guidelines are aimed at enforcing a strict time discipline in dealing with all priority sector credit proposals including those received from the SSI Sector. The guidelines also envisage issue of acknowledgement with date of receipt of applications and evolving an effective system for monitoring the timely disposal of cases.